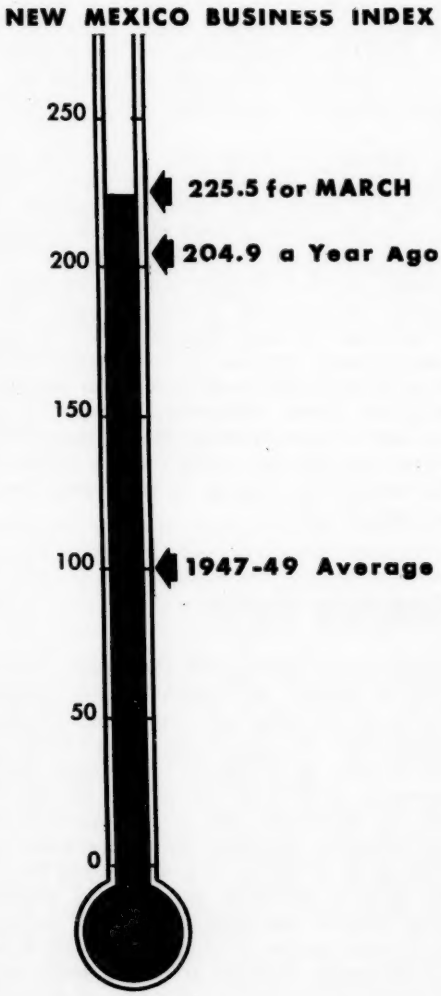
MAY 1957

New Mexico BUSINESS



No general softening of business in New Mexico was apparent in the Index of Business Activity for March in spite of recurrent talk locally and nationally about a threatening decline. As a matter of fact, the percentage gain in the Index over March 1956 was more than double that for the corresponding period in the two preceding years.

Some soft spots were evident here and there, but no more than is typical of business in all but the most expansive periods. Among retail stores, the apparel, furniture and appliance, and automotive dealers all did less business than they did in the same month a year earlier. Manufacturer's sales were also down somewhat. And the production of copper dropped sharply.

In all other branches of business for which the Bureau is able to get data on current activity, March 1957 was an excellent month.

The 10 per cent gain in March sales of New Mexico retailers stood in marked contrast to the fractional decline suffered by retail stores nationally. Accompanying this solid gain in retail trade were other comparable increases for the state's wholesalers and service establishments, while the amusement group chalked up a fat 25 per cent boost over March 1956.

(Continued on page 7)

Population Projections----- **-----▸▸**

Projections of Population for New Mexico Counties to 1965

By Ralph L. Edgel

A GROWING effort to formalize and improve the planning function is one of the distinguishing characteristics of modern business management. This is the logical outcome of a deepening realization that every business commitment made actually is a forecast of what the future is expected to bring. As a consequence, the business community concentrates more and more upon attempts to divine the future by rational (as opposed to mystical) means. The result is an emphasis on forecasting, variously regarded as a science, an art, or a sham.

This mixed regard for forecasting comes from its indifferent success in prognosticating what is later realized through experience. This unimpressive record arises not so much out of failure to understand the basic conditions which determine the course of business activity and upon which forecasts are predicated, as it does out of an inability to foresee the specific events which change these conditions. Nevertheless, the lack of uniformly accurate predictions does not dissuade business men and others from demanding that forecasting be continued.

It is probably quite proper that they should so insist. For despite our inability to foresee individual events which may destroy all the basic assumptions of any forecast, we can in all likelihood learn more about the workings of our economic system by making forecasts and testing them against subsequent experience than we can by merely studying past events. With repeated exercise, we should improve our ability to make useful, if not entirely accurate, forecasts.

Moreover, because the success of every business commitment depends upon the turn of the future, we are inevitably attempting forecasts, whether we want to or not. Therefore, we should recognize the process and apply to it as much intelligence and learning as we can marshall.

Because the role of consumers is basic in the economic process, the size of future populations is of paramount consideration in all business plans and forecasts, and population predictions are the most frequently demanded of all prognostications. For some time the Bureau of Business Research has resisted involvement in forecasts of population for individual areas in New Mexico on the grounds that it is humanly impossible to forecast accurately the movement of population into and out of small areas, that our efforts to do so would be misunderstood, and that we would be unjustifiably criticized when experience almost inevitably proved our forecasts wrong. Consequently, we have limited our efforts to estimates of the size of current populations, believing that we had sufficient indications of their size to arrive at reasonably accurate estimates of approximate levels of population and directions of change.

More recently we have been induced to make projections (which we like to distinguish from forecasts) for civic and business groups, releasing such projections only when the prospective users understand that the figures are based upon certain limited assumptions which will not necessarily be realized in experience. Widespread interest in such figures and increasing requests for them now lead us to publish them so that the general public may have them for whatever they are worth. However, it must be emphasized that an understanding both of the methods by which the figures are derived and of the limited meaning which they convey is necessary to intelligent use of them.

The Guessing Game

Providing population figures for future dates is essentially a matter of estimating the changes likely to occur between now and then. Changes in the population of a given area arise from two principal causes: an excess of births over deaths and migration to or from the area. Of the two, the latter is frequently the more important because the changes resulting from migration are often so large as to cancel out completely the results of natural increase (births and deaths). Estimating births and deaths from an existing population base can be accomplished with a fair degree of accuracy because birth and death rates can be calculated and are ordinarily quite stable over a short period of years. Attempts to forecast migration, however, are subject to a high degree of uncertainty; for, while past rates of net migration can be calculated, migration cannot be

traced to the same sort of "natural" causes as births and deaths and offers, therefore, no assurance of stability.

The basic problem in making projections of population for an area, then, is the particularly difficult one of estimating future migration to and from the area. People live at, or move to and from, a given place in response to many influences, not all of which are known and few of which are well understood. Moreover, the exact effect of a given influence and the counteracting effects of other influences are not understood and cannot be measured.

We are fairly certain that some of the influences causing people to move from area to area include the relative availability of jobs, the nature of available work, prospective pay, and working conditions. We also believe that a whole complex of influences, usually lumped together as "living conditions," may exercise a considerable effect upon the movement of people. There are probably many other influences of varying degrees of importance to most people or to particular individuals. But even if we knew all the influences which might operate on all the residents or potential residents of a given place at any given future time, we still have no way to measure human reactions to those influences in terms of how many persons will move where in response to them.

No Crystal Ball

Nor can we know what precise events will occur at any one time in the future nor exactly what influences they will have on population movements. Who of us in 1945 could have anticipated the discovery of uranium-bearing ore bodies in the Four Corners area and the effect of the discovery upon the economy of the area, particularly since few of us knew of the uses of uranium? But to make reasonably accurate forecasts of the 1955 population of Farmington we would have had to anticipate the Four Corners development.

A 1945 forecast of the establishment at Sandia Base of a vast laboratory devoted to the design and control of atomic weapons would have been just as difficult. Yet without such foresight one could not have anticipated a fraction of Albuquerque's growth since 1945.

No one can foresee five or ten years ahead of time the effects upon population movements of the interactions of differential wage rates. Discoveries, technological innovations, shifting markets which change the significance of our resources and alter the nature and location of job opportunities cannot be foreseen with sufficient clarity for us to anticipate their quantitative effects upon the population of any area.

Why, then--in view of the attendant uncertainties--make population forecasts? Business executives, government programmers, civic leaders, and many others must make commitments the wisdom of which turns largely on the number of people present at a given place at a given time in the future. So we must of necessity make our guesses, estimates, forecasts, projections--whatever you choose to call them--about future populations.

This uncertain task may be approached in several alternative ways. One can calculate past and current birth and death rates and, using these ratios, project--on the basis of natural increase alone--the number of people living in an area at a given future time, as though one could build a great wall around the area and let nobody in or out. This method is unrealistic in a country where movement is relatively free. As one alternative, the forecaster can calculate the rate of increase or decrease during some past period and then merely extend this same rate of change into the future. This method of attack assumes that the same forces which operated in the past will, with respect to a particular locality, continue to operate the same way in the future--another unrealistic assumption. One can also calculate the rate of migration for some past period and make separate projections of natural increase and increase (or loss) by migration, varying the projected rate of migration to suit various assumptions about the future. The same basic objection applies to this method as to the preceding two.

A New Approach

All these and other methods have been and are being used with some frequency to arrive at figures for future populations upon which to base present decisions. For the projections presented here, however, we have tried to develop still another method--one which will produce reasoned estimates.

This method reasons that there is close relationship between an area's population and the number of jobs available there--that population must be supported by jobs. It reasons further that employment opportunities are the principal determinant of migration among areas in the United States, but it recognizes that the relative desirability of living conditions as among various areas also induces movement of people.

The method proceeds by projecting the probable changes in employment opportunities of a given area (in this case, the counties of New Mexico) based upon presently discernible trends and what we know, or think we know, about the character of the resources of the area. In projecting employment opportunities, we first consider employment as falling into two broad categories which we designate as basic and secondary. Basic employment we define broadly as that which is concerned with serving people outside the immediate area or which produces a flow of money into the area. Secondary employment is that which is concerned with serving the needs of the people of the immediate area. It is assumed that an increase in the number of jobs in basic employment will give rise to an increase in the number in secondary employment. The sixty-four dollar question concerns how much increase in secondary employment will be generated by a given increase in basic employment.

It should be pointed out that under our definition of basic employment, employment in any industry can be basic to the economy of the area. That is, that portion of the employment in any industry which produces a flow of money into the area may be considered basic employment. Thus some portion of the employment in restaurants, office-supply stores, garages, railroad stations, and any other type of business may be basic to the economy of a given area.

To arrive at figures for basic employment in each county, we treated agriculture, mining, and manufacturing differently from the other industries. For these three we considered all their employment as basic, even though we know that some of it serves primarily the people of an immediate area. For all other industries we considered as basic only their employment which was in excess of the number necessary to serve local needs. Our determination of how much employment in each industry is necessary to serve local needs was based on studies of the distribution of employment for the United States and New Mexico.

To estimate the influence on secondary employment of adding one job in basic employment, we studied the relationship between basic and secondary employment in the census years 1940 and 1950, and the changes in employment between 1940 and 1955, developing ratios between these two broad categories for each county for three different years. Most of these ratios exhibited surprising stability throughout the period studied, although there were expected variations among the several counties.

Having studied these relationships, we then proceeded to estimate for each county what could happen to basic employment in each major industry based on that county's current activities and trends and the knowledge of present and prospective utilization of its known resources. On the basis of projected basic employment, we then calculated the probable effect on secondary employment and total employment. This figure was then projected into an estimate of total population. Next, the population figures based on rationalized employment estimates were modified to take some account of the observed tendency of migration from areas of less salubrious climate and crowded living conditions to the Southwest. The final results are shown in the accompanying tables.

The method we have used to arrive at our projections of population is obviously subject to criticism and admittedly leaves much to be desired. The distinction between basic and secondary employment is vague; it assumes fairly constant relationships, and it doesn't take adequate account of local variations in employment relationships and the varying stages of economic development which may affect them. It doesn't take account of many influences that may affect population movements and changes. Its techniques could probably be further refined. Moreover, the method itself does not guarantee that the projections will be any more accurate by the test of subsequent experience than those made in any other way--good old garden-variety guesses.

The only virtue that we may claim for our method is that it is a reasoned one: it requires "reasoning out" how many people could logically be expected to occupy a given area in the future on the basis of present known relationships and conditions. It is, however, subject to the weakness that we, and others who may use it, may not fully understand the basic relationships which govern changes in and the size of population and that we probably don't know all the present conditions which will affect future developments. The method itself does not enable us to foresee with any more clarity than any other method those future events which may alter the relationships upon which our projections are based.

What the Figures Mean

The figures set forth in the accompanying tables represent only "our best guess" concerning what the population of New Mexico counties might be in 1960 and 1965 based on conditions and trends as we can see and interpret them in the spring of 1957. They are not forecasts of what we think the population will be; we have no way of knowing all the conditions which will determine the size of the population of any area. We prefer to regard them as projections of the approximate number of people we could expect in these coun-

ties IF the assumptions upon which the projections are based are realized by subsequent experience and IF other unanticipated influences are not realized.

It is impossible to recognize all of the assumptions which are implicit in a person's mind when making calculations of the nature involved in these projections, such as the continuation of law and order and the retention of the basic institutions of our economic system. However, so that the user of the figures may know some of the principal conditions we had in mind, we set down our explicit assumptions for the period to 1965.

1. While we have made no attempt to forecast cyclical fluctuations in business activity nor their impact upon the economy of the state or the individual counties, we have assumed that there will be no radical change in general economic conditions nationally and that there will continue to be a market for the products of the state's farms, ranches, mines, and manufacturers.

2. The birth rates locally and nationally will continue about the same.

3. Entirely aside from growth in specific employment opportunities, the state will continue to attract people from outside the state. Such inmigration will in itself generate additional employment, both basic and secondary.

4. Agriculture will continue its long-term trend of occupying fewer people.

5. A national movement toward decentralization of industry will continue.

6. There will be no radical change nationally in the volume of defense-oriented activities.

While our working tables for making the projections included analyses of employment by major industrial categories from 1940 through 1965, the tables reproduced here include only total population, total employment, and a classification of population by urban, rural nonfarm, and rural farm residence. Urban population is defined as including people living in communities of 2,500 population or more. Census data for 1940 and 1950 and estimates for 1955 are included to provide some limited prespective.

Population of New Mexico Counties

	1940(1)	1950(1)	1955(2)	1960(3)	1965(3)
Bernalillo					
Population	69,391	145,673	205,500	321,600	434,600
Rural-Farm	9,871	4,821	4,200	3,800	4,500
Rural-Nonfarm	24,071	29,281	31,300	52,000	65,000
Urban	35,449	111,571	170,000	265,800	365,100
Employment	20,050	46,764	64,750	100,500	135,800
Catron					
Population	4,881	3,533	2,700	2,900	2,900
Rural-Farm	2,446	1,472	1,200	1,200	1,100
Rural-Nonfarm	2,435	2,061	1,500	1,700	1,800
Urban	--	--	--	--	--
Employment	1,474	1,194	970	1,000	1,000
Chaves					
Population	23,980	40,605	53,500	66,300	79,400
Rural-Farm	7,351	6,846	5,100	4,700	4,600
Rural-Nonfarm	3,147	8,021	9,600	10,000	10,500
Urban	13,482	25,738	38,800	51,600	64,300
Employment	7,182	11,945	15,500	19,500	23,000
Colfax					
Population	18,718	16,761	14,600	17,200	21,100
Rural-Farm	3,734	2,383	1,900	1,600	1,300
Rural-Nonfarm	7,377	6,137	4,300	4,500	2,900(4)
Urban	7,607	8,241	8,400	11,100	16,900
Employment	5,005	5,138	4,190	5,200	5,300
Curry					
Population	18,159	23,351	25,500	28,800	33,300
Rural-Farm	5,318	3,544	3,200	2,900	2,800
Rural-Nonfarm	2,776	2,489	2,500	2,400	2,400
Urban	10,065	17,318	19,800	23,500	28,100
Employment	5,821	8,318	8,870	9,600	11,100

(Continued on page 8)

Business Activity in New Mexico

	March 1957	Year Earlier March 1956	Per Cent Change March 1957 from Feb. 1957	Per Cent Change March 1957 from Mar. 1956	INDEX March 1957 (Average Month 1947-49 = 100)
Index of Business Activity (1947-49 = 100)	225.5	204.9	+ 3.2	+ 10.1	225.5
Sales of Retail Stores (1,000's)	$ 93,335	$ 84,888	+ 8.0	+ 10.0	189.7
Apparel Stores	2,370	2,852	- 13.5	- 16.9	119.7
Automotive Dealers	21,122	23,886	+ 4.6	- 11.6	154.9
Subsistence Stores	19,859	17,803	- 9.4	+ 11.6	172.2
Furniture and Appliance Stores	4,513	7,261	- 9.2	- 37.8	177.4
Building Materials Dealers	7,319	6,734	- 6.3	+ 8.7	150.2
Other Retail Stores	38,152	26,353	+ 32.5	+ 44.8	260.7
Sales of Amusement Establishments (1,000's)	$ 1,018	$ 811	- 19.4	+ 25.6	114.3
Sales of Service Establishments (1,000's)	9,714	8,575	- 6.4	+ 13.3	251.3
Sales of Contractors (1,000's)	24,019	16,715	- 0.7	+ 43.7	351.5
Sales of Wholesalers (1,000's)	28,929	26,127	+ 14.0	+ 10.7	143.2
Public Utilities' and Carriers' Sales (1,000's)	12,340	9,028	+ 55.2	+ 36.7	263.7
Manufacturers' and Processors' Sales (1,000's)	20,142	21,999	- 12.3	- 8.4	268.6
Life Insurance Sales (1,000's)	17,772	14,909	+ 12.3	+ 19.2	506.8
Bank Debits, 36 banks (1,000's)	$356,543	$336,322	+ 10.3	+ 6.0	224.0[a]
Bank Loans and Discounts, 36 banks (1,000's)	34,321	31,901	+ 21.1	+ 7.6	205.7[a]
Demand Deposits, 36 banks (1,000's)	291,430	286,784	+ 2.0	+ 1.6	157.2[a]
Time Deposits, 36 banks (1,000's)	91,885	85,496	+ 2.3	+ 7.5	260.3[a]
Business Failure Liabilities (1,000's)[b]	415	115	+ 85.8	+261.4	1,448.9
Postal Receipts, 37 post offices (1,000's)	511	534	+ 4.9	- 4.3	215.0[a]
Number of Workers in Nonagricultural Establishments	199,000	187,600	+ 1.1	+ 6.1	151.1
in Manufacturing	19,500	18,700	- 0.5	+ 4.3	196.6
in Mining	16,500	15,800	+ 1.9	+ 4.4	143.2
in Transportation and Utilities	19,600	19,100	- 1.0	+ 2.6	130.6
in Trade	43,800	41,900	+ 1.2	+ 4.5	147.4
in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	7,000	6,400	+ 1.4	+ 9.4	238.5
in Services and Miscellaneous	24,300	22,300	+ 2.5	+ 9.0	113.2
in Government	53,000	49,000	+ 0.4	+ 8.2	185.8
in Contract Construction	15,300	14,400	+ 5.5	+ 6.2	121.1
Building Permits, total 15 cities (1,000's)	$ 6,349	$ 4,539	+ 68.9	+ 39.9	264.5
Residential	3,234	2,331	+ 25.7	+ 38.7	216.8
Nonresidential	2,414	1,600	+229.0	+ 50.9	364.8
Other	701	608	+ 55.3	+ 15.3	284.3
Petroleum Production (1,000's of bbls)	8,309	7,504	+ 12.1	+ 10.7	219.1
Natural Gas Production (millions of cu ft)	62,580	52,057	+ 11.9	+ 20.2	404.5
Electric Power Production (1,000's of kwh's)	202,045	183,191	+ 13.4	+ 10.3	229.0
Index of Total Metallics Production (1947-49 = 100)	109.0	117.8	+ 6.8	- 7.5	109.0
Mine Production - Copper (1,000's of lbs)	11,700	14,698	+ 9.4	- 20.4	110.7
Mine Production - Lead (1,000's of lbs)	1,320	850	+ 15.4	+ 55.3	127.2
Mine Production - Zinc (1,000's of lbs)	6,660	5,912	+ 0.7	+ 12.7	104.3
Mine Production - Potash (1,000's of tons)	1,149	997	+ 18.0	+ 15.2	287.0
Index of All Farm Prices (1947-49 = 100)	90.7	81.7	+ 3.5	+ 11.0	90.7
Index of Livestock Prices	90.9	82.6	+ 5.5	+ 10.0	90.9
Index of Crop Prices	97.2	85.7	- 0.4	+ 13.4	97.2
Receipts from All Farm Marketings (1,000's)	na	na	na	na	na
Livestock and Products	na	na	na	na	na
Crops	na	na	na	na	na

	April 1957	Year Earlier April 1956	Per Cent Change April 1957 from Mar. 1957	Per Cent Change April 1957 from Apr. 1956	INDEX April 1957 (Average Month 1947-49 = 100)
Bank Debits, 36 banks (1,000's)	$370,305	$338,493	+ 3.9	+ 9.4	232.7[a]
Bank Loans and Discounts, 36 banks (1,000's)	35,293	33,164	+ 2.8	+ 6.4	211.5[a]
Demand Deposits, 36 banks (1,000's)	290,198	291,318	- 0.4	- 0.4	156.6[a]
Time Deposits, 36 banks (1,000's)	92,345	85,822	+ 0.5	+ 7.6	261.6[a]
Postal Receipts, 35 post offices (1,000's)	529	495	+ 4.9	+ 6.8	225.5[a]
Building Permits, total 15 cities (1,000's)	$ 4,157	$ 4,443	- 34.5	- 6.4	173.2[a]
Residential	2,464	2,258	- 23.8	+ 9.1	165.2[a]
Nonresidential	1,048	1,557	- 56.6	- 32.7	158.3[a]
Other	645	628	- 8.0	+ 2.8	261.7[a]
Index of All Farm Prices (1947-49 = 100)	93.4	83.1	+ 3.0	+ 12.4	93.4
Index of Livestock Prices	95.0	84.6	+ 4.5	+ 12.3	95.0
Index of Crop Prices	97.2	86.5	0.0	+ 12.4	97.2

[a]Indexes adjusted for changing number of reporting units

[b]Based on three months' data

Sources:
Retail Sales data: N. M. Bureau of Revenue
Potash Production: N. M. Bureau of Revenue
Petroleum and Natural Gas Production: N. M. Oil Conservation Commission
Life Insurance Sales (New Ordinary): Life Insurance Agency Management Association
Wage Employment (all categories): N. M. Employment Security Commission
Electric Power Production: Federal Power Commission
Metallics Production: U. S. Bureau of Mines
Farm Prices and Marketings: U. S. Agricultural Marketing Service
Bank data (all series), Postal Receipts, Building Permits: Bureau of Business Research
Business Failure Liabilities: Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.

Monthly Summary

(Continued from page 1)

Construction activity was sparked by a substantial rise in building permits, and there was a corresponding jump in the sales of construction contractors. The number of workers employed in construction during March exceeded the average of either 1955 or 1956.

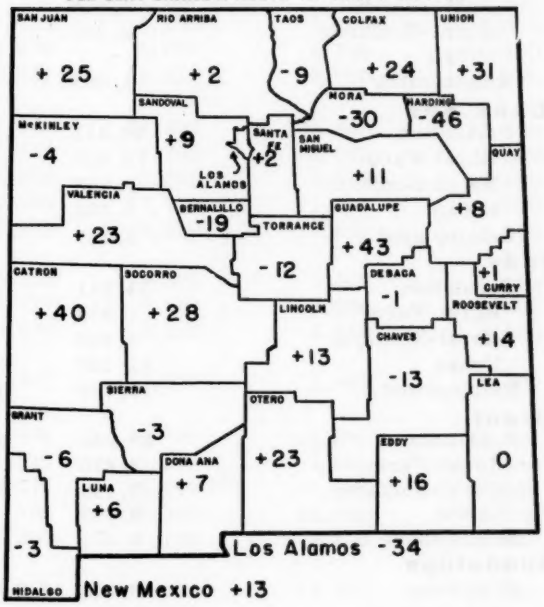
In response to the generally high level of business activity, bank debits and loans and discounts both showed good gains. Demand deposits rose only modestly, but time deposits were up quite substantially over a year earlier.

In view of the considerable pessimism with which this year's business has been viewed nationally, the steady growth of employment in New Mexico is most encouraging. Nonagricultural employment in March was 6.1 per cent higher than it was a year earlier. For the nation there was only 1.7 per cent gain. Thus the state continues to surpass the nation in growth, as it has every year in the postwar period.

What is equally encouraging is that this continued rapid growth has been distributed among all the major industries.

RETAIL SALES: A Comparison

PER CENT CHANGE: March '57 from March '56



Sales Activity in New Mexico Counties

MARCH 1957

(add 1,000's)	Retail Stores							Amusement Places	Service Firms	Manufacturers & Processors
County	Apparel	Automotive	Subsistence	Furniture & Appliances	Building Material	Other	Total			
Bernalillo	$1,005	$ 4,486	$ 5,116	$1,684	$2,351	$ 6,379	$21,021	$ 229	$2,998	$ 3,353
Catron	0	39	63	0	5	38	145	2	(a)	54
Chaves	180	1,111	1,200	471	403	1,549	4,914	123	698	1,544
Colfax	21	360	274	25	65	461	1,206	15	114	265
Curry	119	678	696	236	168	733	2,830	74	611	506
De Baca	0	63	63	1	59	54	240	(a)	16	(a)
Dona Ana	73	1,023	956	170	420	1,126	3,768	64	401	69
Eddy	183	1,216	1,370	567	586	1,965	5,887	63	624	7,120
Grant	33	492	499	91	108	543	1,766	21	312	325
Guadalupe	3	240	174	1	26	212	656	(a)	9	(a)
Harding	0	50	3	0	4	26	83	2	3	4
Hidalgo	9	216	183	8	58	137	611	2	31	28
Lea	168	1,949	1,341	331	553	3,295	7,637	89	700	1,580
Lincoln	1	171	130	15	62	165	544	11	33	19
Los Alamos	19	151	238	9	2	95	514	21	94	48
Luna	19	536	227	45	19	373	1,219	12	96	324
McKinley	35	958	472	73	152	755	2,445	48	141	81
Mora	1	51	23	4	(a)	40	119	1	4	16
Otero	73	553	833	138	484	632	2,713	38	205	402
Quay	25	409	306	34	108	295	1,177	19	68	26
Rio Arriba	2	379	200	9	52	351	993	2	25	91
Roosevelt	37	560	341	62	125	395	1,520	22	111	230
Sandoval	(a)	92	152	0	4	157	405	0	26	(a)
San Juan	70	1,719	1,035	62	459	1,867	5,212	46	579	578
San Miguel	10	344	310	48	78	438	1,228	18	97	70
Santa Fe	179	1,028	1,041	174	280	1,044	3,746	32	685	451
Sierra	2	118	224	12	17	156	529	6	80	15
Socorro	8	223	238	27	23	223	742	2	33	22
Taos	3	197	192	12	26	159	589	7	43	20
Torrance	1	279	53	4	20	181	538	(a)	14	1
Union	14	175	142	2	28	159	520	6	43	5
Valencia	27	589	403	44	125	583	1,771	12	90	62
Unallocated	50	467	1,361	154	449	13,566	16,047	31	730	2,833
Total	$2,370	$21,122	$19,859	$4,513	$7,319	$38,152	$93,335	$1,018	$9,714	$20,142

(a) Less than $1,000
Source: School Tax Division, N. M. Bureau of Revenue

(Continued from page 5)

	1940[1]	1950[1]	1955[2]	1960[3]	1965[3]
De Baca					
Population	3,725	3,464	3,000	3,300	3,600
Rural-Farm	1,518	1,099	900	700	600
Rural-Nonfarm	2,207	2,365	2,100	2,600	300[5]
Urban	--	--	--	--	2,700
Employment	1,063	1,185	1,000	1,100	1,200
Dona Ana					
Population	30,411	39,557	44,600	46,400	52,400
Rural-Farm	12,827	10,958	9,800	9,100	9,500
Rural-Nonfarm	9,199	16,274	16,900	17,000	18,000
Urban	8,385	12,325	17,900	20,300	24,900
Employment	8,127	11,380	12,960	13,400	15,400
Eddy					
Population	24,311	40,640	49,700	59,400	66,200
Rural-Farm	5,656	6,032	5,000	4,300	3,600
Rural-Nonfarm	7,468	8,389	8,600	5,300[6]	5,500
Urban	11,187	26,219	36,100	49,800	57,100
Employment	7,795	13,935	15,960	19,100	21,300
Grant					
Population	20,050	21,649	20,300	26,700	29,700
Rural-Farm	2,870	1,820	1,600	1,500	1,300
Rural-Nonfarm	12,136	12,807	11,700	5,500[7]	6,000
Urban	5,044	7,022	7,000	19,700	22,400
Employment	5,271	6,761	6,840	8,900	9,900
Guadalupe					
Population	8,646	6,772	6,000	5,700	5,700
Rural-Farm	2,570	1,634	1,400	1,300	1,200
Rural-Nonfarm	6,076	5,138	4,600	1,700[8]	1,500
Urban	--	--	--	2,700	3,000
Employment	1,794	1,834	1,790	1,700	1,700
Harding					
Population	4,374	3,013	2,000	1,800	1,800
Rural-Farm	2,383	1,395	1,100	1,000	900
Rural-Nonfarm	1,991	1,618	900	800	900
Urban	--	--	--	--	--
Employment	934	884	630	600	600
Hidalgo					
Population	4,821	5,095	6,300	8,200	9,400
Rural-Farm	932	805	1,000	1,000	900
Rural-Nonfarm	788	765	800	1,000	1,000
Urban	3,101	3,525	4,500	6,200	7,500
Employment	1,491	1,671	2,070	2,700	3,100
Lea					
Population	21,154	30,717	50,200	58,500	71,400
Rural-Farm	2,347	3,237	3,200	3,000	2,500
Rural-Nonfarm	8,188	10,471	6,400[9]	6,000	4,900
Urban	10,619	17,009	40,600	49,500	64,000
Employment	7,365	11,579	20,150	22,500	23,800
Lincoln					
Population	8,557	7,409	7,600	7,400	8,100
Rural-Farm	2,967	1,975	2,100	2,000	1,800
Rural-Nonfarm	5,590	5,434	5,500	5,400	6,300
Urban	--	--	--	--	--
Employment	2,267	2,297	2,480	2,400	2,600
Los Alamos					
Population	--	10,476	13,000	14,000	14,000
Rural-Farm	--	--	--	--	--
Rural-Nonfarm	--	542	--	--	--
Urban	--	9,934	13,000	14,000	14,000
Employment	--	4,665	5,920	6,000	6,000

	1940[1]	1950[1]	1955[2]	1960[3]	1965[3]
Luna					
Population	6,457	8,753	10,200	11,800	14,700
Rural-Farm	1,514	1,726	1,600	1,500	1,400
Rural-Nonfarm	1,335	1,355	1,700	1,600	1,600
Urban	3,608	5,672	6,900	8,700	11,700
Employment	1,866	2,713	3,330	3,700	4,600
McKinley					
Population	23,641	27,451	33,800	38,300	51,500
Rural-Farm	9,772	7,160	6,300	6,000	5,500
Rural-Nonfarm	6,828	8,595	9,800	10,500	15,000
Urban	7,041	11,696	17,700	21,800	31,000
Employment	8,049	7,923	9,200	12,600	15,600
Mora					
Population	10,981	8,720	6,500	5,800	5,300
Rural-Farm	7,180	5,097	3,900	3,500	3,300
Rural-Nonfarm	3,801	3,623	2,600	2,300	2,000
Urban	--	--	--	--	--
Employment	1,959	1,873	1,600	1,500	1,400
Otero					
Population	10,522	14,909	24,700	27,500	35,500
Rural-Farm	3,157	2,210	2,100	1,900	1,800
Rural-Nonfarm	3,415	5,916	6,600[10]	6,900	7,000
Urban	3,950	6,783	16,000	18,700	26,700
Employment	2,813	4,307	7,120	8,100	10,600
Quay					
Population	12,111	13,971	12,700	14,400	17,700
Rural-Farm	4,187	3,577	3,200	2,900	2,800
Rural-Nonfarm	1,730	1,975	1,000	900	1,200
Urban	6,194	8,419	8,500	10,600	13,700
Employment	3,434	4,565	4,290	4,900	5,900
Rio Arriba					
Population	25,352	24,997	25,800	29,700	32,000
Rural-Farm	14,113	11,449	12,000	11,800	11,300
Rural-Nonfarm	11,239	13,548	13,800	12,600[11]	11,600[12]
Urban	--	--	--	5,300	9,100
Employment	4,158	5,729	5,860	7,000	8,000
Roosevelt					
Population	14,549	16,409	15,900	19,400	21,600
Rural-Farm	8,214	6,853	6,100	6,000	5,700
Rural-Nonfarm	1,231	1,444	800	900	700
Urban	5,104	8,112	9,000	12,500	15,200
Employment	4,177	5,936	5,690	6,700	7,200
Sandoval					
Population	13,898	12,438	12,100	11,500	15,200
Rural-Farm	5,600	5,540	6,300	5,700	6,400
Rural-Nonfarm	8,298	6,898	5,800	5,800	5,800[13]
Urban	--	--	--	--	3,000
Employment	3,419	3,140	2,880	2,800	3,900
San Juan					
Population	17,115	18,292	33,200	38,100	55,100
Rural-Farm	12,339	8,423	5,600	5,500	6,300[15]
Rural-Nonfarm	4,776	6,232	9,000[14]	9,400	10,300
Urban	--	3,637	18,600	23,200	38,500
Employment	5,175	5,225	9,550	11,200	16,700
San Miguel					
Population	27,910	26,512	23,700	27,000	30,000
Rural-Farm	9,101	5,638	4,300	4,100	3,900
Rural-Nonfarm	6,447	7,111	5,200	5,000	4,600
Urban	12,362	13,763	14,200	17,900	21,500
Employment	4,852	5,377	5,000	6,000	6,900

	1940[1]	1950[1]	1955[2]	1960[3]	1965[3]
Santa Fe					
Population	30,826	38,153	38,900	40,300	48,500
Rural-Farm	5,130	3,679	3,600	3,400	3,000
Rural-Nonfarm	5,371	6,476	4,800	3,900	4,500
Urban	20,325	27,998	30,500	33,000	41,000
Employment	7,528	11,525	11,780	12,200	14,700
Sierra					
Population	6,962	7,186	5,800	5,100	5,100
Rural-Farm	1,828	1,097	800	700	600
Rural-Nonfarm	2,194	1,526	800	500	500
Urban	2,940	4,563	4,200	3,900	4,000
Employment	1,958	2,339	1,950	1,700	1,700
Socorro					
Population	11,422	9,670	9,200	8,900	8,800
Rural-Farm	4,672	2,215	1,600	1,400	1,300
Rural-Nonfarm	3,038	3,121	2,800	2,500	2,100
Urban	3,712	4,334	4,800	5,000	5,400
Employment	2,292	2,531	2,460	2,400	2,400
Taos					
Population	18,528	17,146	14,800	14,200	14,500
Rural-Farm	9,924	7,100	5,600	5,000	4,500
Rural-Nonfarm	8,604	10,046	9,200	9,200	10,000
Urban	--	--	--	--	--
Employment	2,913	3,864	3,450	3,300	3,400
Torrance					
Population	11,026	8,012	6,600	7,200	8,400
Rural-Farm	5,391	3,055	2,100	2,000	1,800
Rural-Nonfarm	5,635	4,957	4,500	5,200	3,200[16]
Urban	--	--	--	--	3,400
Employment	2,722	2,078	1,690	1,900	2,200
Union					
Population	9,095	7,372	5,600	5,300	5,000
Rural-Farm	4,311	2,818	2,100	1,800	1,600
Rural-Nonfarm	1,596	1,039	600	600	400
Urban	3,188	3,515	2,900	2,900	3,000
Employment	2,402	2,449	1,800	1,700	1,600
Valencia					
Population	20,245	22,481	21,900	41,100	50,500
Rural-Farm	7,891	6,165	4,900	4,700	4,500
Rural-Nonfarm	9,316	11,821	7,000[17]	18,900	16,000
Urban	3,038	4,495	10,000	17,500	30,000
Employment	4,463	5,520	6,060	12,100	15,300
State Totals					
Population	531,818	681,187	805,900	1,013,800	1,253,000
Rural-Farm	177,114	131,823	113,800	106,000	102,300
Rural-Nonfarm	178,303	207,475	192,700	212,600	223,500
Urban	176,401	341,889	499,400	695,200	927,200
Employment	140,269	206,544	247,790	314,000	383,900

1. U.S. Bureau of Census, 1950 Census of Population.
2. Estimated by Bureau of Business Research, U.N.M.
3. Projected. See text for explanation.
4. Springer attains urban size.
5. Fort Sumner attains urban size.
6. Loving attains urban size.
7. Bayard, Central, Hurley, and Santa Rita attain urban size.
8. Santa Rosa attains urban size.
9. Eunice and Jal attain urban size.
10. Tularosa attains urban size.
11. The combined Espanola-Riverside area considered as one urban community.
12. Cuba attains urban size.
13. Bernalillo attains urban size.
14. Aztec attains urban size.
15. This distribution of population assumes that an additional 140,000 acres of land will come under irrigation as result of Navajo Dam adding 2,800 persons to farm residence.
16. Mountainair attains urban size.
17. Grants attains urban size.

Expansion of Uranium Milling

When all the mills presently approved by the AEC get into production, New Mexico's leadership among the states in uranium milling capacity (and probably in production, too) will be even more pronounced than it is currently. This prospective leadership in capacity is in line with the fact that New Mexico contains well over half the country's proved reserves of uranium ores.

Even at the present time, the state's two operating mills give it a larger capacity than that of any other state and account for 37 per cent of the nation's total. But the recent extensive discoveries in the Ambrosia Lake district in McKinley county--some twenty-five miles north of Grants--have spurred planning and AEC approval of three new mills to handle the ore from that area. And these three, with the two presently operating, will give New Mexico a total capacity of 5,550 tons per day, about 48 per cent of the nation's total from plants now operating plus those under construction.

New Mexico's present milling capacity is provided by Kerr-McGee's 500-ton Shiprock plant and Anaconda's 3,000-ton Bluewater mill. The three new ones will be Homestake-New Mexico Partners' 750-ton plant north of Grants, Homestake-Sapin's 1,500-ton mill near Bluewater, and Kermac Nuclear Fuels' 3,300 operation, also north of Grants.

The present distribution of mills, operating and planned in the United States is shown in the table below.

Whether the milling capacity shown in the table represents the ultimate in the development of extraction of uranium concentrates seems rather doubtful in view of the energetic search for and discovery of uranium-bearing ores in other localities. Although the Ambrosia Lake district is currently the hottest thing in the uranium picture, several other New Mexico areas promise to show substantial reserves, among them the old La Bajada mine in Santa Fe county, several areas in southeastern Sandoval county, and at least one location in Catron county.

Phillips Petroleum is said to have an application for approval of a 1,500-ton mill, probably also for the Ambrosia Lake area, and a mill has been proposed for Los Lunas, Other mills--still in the dreaming, talking, or planning stage--are too numerous, and in many cases too vague, to take into account.

All of this activity, and prospective activity, promises considerable expansion for the economies of the affected areas, and there seems to be no doubt that the impact during the next few years will be tremendous.

But these developments also raise some real questions, most of them concerning how long the boom can last. The present AEC buying program is scheduled to expire in 1966. What will then happen to the uranium market is uncertain. Of course, the period for the buying program has been extended before, and it may be again. Also, by 1966 there may be a private market for uranium sufficient to sustain mining and milling on a scale at least as large as that presently projected. Some public announcements are extremely discouraging to this point of view; others are equally encouraging.

Be that as it may, some of the developers and operators of current mining and milling projects plan to wind up operations as early as 1965. If these plans are carried out, the impact on the economies of some of our northwestern counties could be extremely severe. On the other hand, secondary developments based on the utilization of uranium near the deposits could result in continued growth and prosperity for the areas.

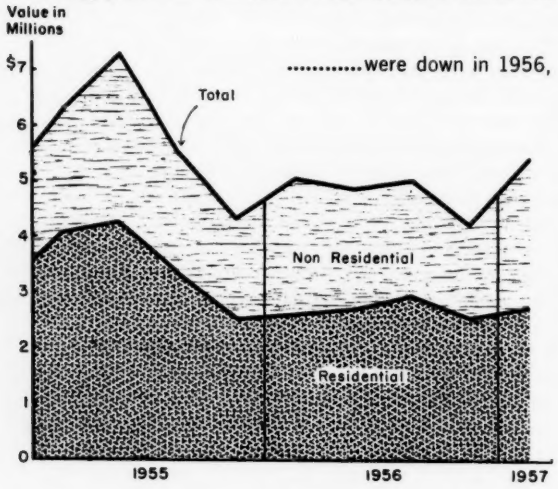
U. S. Uranium Mills

Number of Mills and Daily Capacities

	In Operation		Building		Total	
	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity
Arizona	1	280	-	-	1	280
Colorado	5	2,540	3	1,410	8	3,950
New Mexico	2	3,500	3	5,550	5	9,050
South Dakota	1	400	-	-	1	400
Utah	3	2,750	1	800	4	3,550
Washington	-	-	1	400	1	400
Wyoming	-	-	2	1,150	2	1,150
	12	9,470	10	9,310	22	18,780

Chart-of-the-Month

Building permits in sixteen New Mexico cities.....



.....were down in 1956,

..... but recovered in the first quarter of 1957.

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